

INFORMATION REPORT INFORMATION REPORT

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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COUNTRY USSR (Moscow Oblast)

REPORT

SUBJECT Moscow State University

DATE DISTR.

16 JUN 1959

NO. PAGES

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REFERENCES

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DATE OF
INFO.
PLACE &
DATE ACQ.

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SOURCE EVALUATIONS ARE DEFINITIVE. APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE.

A three-page report on the organization and instruction at Moscow State University

The report provides information on research work near the village Ryazanovo in Moscow Oblast. The research program there was attempting to develop means of transferring sturgeon from salty bodies of water, their natural habitat, to fresh water environments for spawning purposes.

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The report includes no information of interest on military subjects or scientific research in other fields, or on the details of the Ryazanovo area. [] reported a waste reprocessing station in the south of Moscow, whose derivatives were used for fertilizer and plastics.

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MOSCOW STATE UNIVERSITY

General

1. Until 1953, several of the Moscow State University buildings were located in the area adjoining the Gertsena and Melkovaya streets. In 1953, most of the faculties were transferred to the new university buildings established at Leningradskie Gory, Leninskiy rayon of Moscow. In 1950, or earlier, many sections of the medical faculty of the university were transferred to other sites, with the largest part located in the Medical Institute on Pirogovskaya ulitsa. One unknown section of the medical faculty was transferred to the city of Ryazan. The University was subordinate to the Ministry of Culture (Ministerstvo prosveshcheniya).

Faculties

2. the following university departments: History, Philology, Economics, Jurisprudence, Philosophy, Journalism (introduced in 1955), Physiology, Biology, Chemistry, Geology and Mathematics (Matematicheskii fakultet). All these departments comprised both the Humanitarian and Natural Sciences faculties. 50X1-HUM

3. Research Work at Ryazanovo

4. students of 50X1-HUM hydrobiology, spent about eight weeks at a kolkhoz located near the village Ryazanovo, studying various phases of development of water life in the above mentioned artificial water reservoirs.

The village Ryazanovo was situated approximately 15 to 20 kilometers from Moscow along the main Moscow-Kursk railroad line; about a 30-minute ride on the suburban electric train from Moscow.

5. This group of students, supervised by one lecturer, was billeted at the kolkhoz under the auspices of the Ministry of Agriculture. The research work conducted by this group 50X1-HUM was apparently a part of an overall study which had been of Soviet interest for many years. The Soviets were apparently attempting to develop a means of transferring sturgeon, heretofore known only to spawn in deltas of rivers adjoining salt water seas, such as the Caspian or Black Seas, to fresh water lakes or artificial fresh water reservoirs, which could be located on any inland state farm or kolkhoz. Twelve years are required for sturgeon to mature and become fully developed for spawning. The study

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conducted [redacted] in Ryazanovo primarily involved research 50X1-HUM
on the development of benthos and plankton in artificial bodies of fresh
water. Means of artificial feeding of sturgeon were also studied there.

[redacted] this program was in its seventh or eighth year of 50X1-HUM
research. At Ryazanovo the ages of the sturgeon used for experimentation
were two, three and seven years. The state of progress achieved in this
field was unknown [redacted]

Curriculum

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6. [redacted] subjects included in 50X1-HUM
the zoological curriculum at Moscow University:

First and Second Year:

General Physics
Organic and Inorganic Chemistry
Zoology: Vertebrate and Invertebrate Animals

Second and Third Year

Above subjects plus
Human Anatomy,
Plant Genetics

Third and Fourth Year

Physiology
Biochemistry of Plants and Animals, Botanics
General and Specific Hydrobiology
Embriology

Fourth and Fifth Years

Histology
General Ichthyology
Physiology of Water Organisms
Darwinism (Evolution)

Leninism-Marxism and physical culture lectures were also included in the
curriculum, [redacted]

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Professor Sergey Nikolayevich SKADOVSKIY, author of a new study in
hydrobiology, taught this subject at the university [redacted]

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7.

Laboratories

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8. [redacted] laboratories [redacted] were [redacted] used in connection with
hydrobiological studies. The research studies involved measuring, weighing,
and experimentation on water and plant organisms related to the sturgeon
relocation problem. These laboratories contained only conventional type

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laboratory instruments, such as microscopes, crucibles, balances (Torzennyye vesy - probably, torsion balances), cup-shaped containers, scissors, pincers, tweezers, and Chashka Petri (Petri dishes). [] a new 50X1-HUM superior type of a microscope appeared in the laboratories. [] this microscope resembled a stereoscopic instrument. It was of Soviet manufacture []

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Research at Gelendzhik

9.

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group of students spent four weeks on the coast of the Black Sea, near the town of Gelendzhik (N 44-34, E 39-05), in the Caucasus, studying the fauna and flora of this coastal region. This field trip was also related to the study course to be given during the fourth year. As in Ryazanovo, the students observed and studied underwater organisms which would remain on the shores at low tide.

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10.

[]

Waste Reprocessing Station in Moscow

11.

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[] a station, or a Kombinat, located somewhere in the southern part of Moscow, where sewage and waste waters were reprocessed or refiltered. Groups of students periodically visited this station. []

[] the liquid 50X1-HUM derivate of the reprocessed waste was used for fertilizer while the solid portion or mass was used for the manufacture of plastics or similar products. A number of gases was also derived from this reprocessing. Any connection between the work done at this Kombinat and research on the probable radio-activity of river or waste waters within the Moscow area was unknown []

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